

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 41-84 are pending. Claims 41, 42, 44-47, 49-62 and 67-84 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 43, 48 and 63-66 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In this response, applicants have amended claims 41, 45, 48, 63, 65 and 68 and cancelled claims 42-43, 46-47, 59-62, 67 and 69-84 without prejudice. Applicants have also added new claims 85-105. New claims 85-105 do not add new matter. Accordingly, claims 41, 44-45, 48-58, 63-66, 68 and 85-105 are presented for consideration.

Claim Objections

Claims 41, 42, 68 and 74 are objected to for containing informalities. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the objections be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 46, 47, 59-62, 67, and 69-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These rejections are obviated by the cancellation of claims 46, 47, 59-62, 67 and 69-84.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action sets forth at page 5, paragraph 15 "Claims 41, 42, 44, 45, 49, 50, 57, and 68-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bingle et al. (US PGPub 2006/0171704)." Applicants have amended claim 41 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 43. Claim 42 is cancelled and its features incorporated into claim 41 and claims 44, 45, 49, 50 and 57 depend upon allowable claim 41. Applicants respectfully request, therefore, that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 9, paragraph 17 "Claims 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. ... in view of Kameyama (US PGPub 2002/0126457)." Claims 51-53 depend upon allowable claim 41. Accordingly,

claims 51-53 are likewise allowable over the cited prior art. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action sets forth at page 11, paragraph 18 "Claim 54-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. ... in view of DeLine et al. (US Patent 6,420,975)." Claims 54-56 depend upon allowable claim 41 and, thus, are likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action sets forth at page 12, paragraph 19 "Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. ... in view of Camus et al. (US Patent 6,594,399)." Claim 58 depends upon allowable claim 41 and, thus, is likewise allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claim is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims 85-105 find support in the specification as originally filed.

- Newly added claim 85 includes the subject matter of original claims 41, 42, 43 and 46.
- Newly added claim 86 is new and supported by the description at, page 7, lines 5-10.
- Newly added claim 87 is new and supported by the description at, page 5, lines 20-24.
- Newly added claim 88 includes the subject matter of original claims 59, 60 and 61 or 80, 81 and 82.
- Newly added claim 89 includes the subject matter of original claim 62 or 83.
- Newly added claim 90 includes the subject matter of original claims 63 and 64.
- Newly added claim 91 includes the subject matter of original claims 65 and 66.
- Newly added claim 92 includes the subject matter of original claim 67.
- Newly added claim 93 includes the subject matter of original claims 44 and 45.


- Newly added claims 94-105 correspond to original claims 68-79 correspondingly renumbered.

Applicants respectfully request that claims 85-105 be entered and allowed.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 13, 2009

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